was involved in a ground incident at Mumbai due to aircraft pushback with Aerobridge still connected. During investigation, presence of three adults, over and above the 172 passengers, was observed on the flight.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. Apart from the incident mentioned above, no incident has come to the notice of this Ministry wherein Air India has disregarded the safety of passengers. However, during the surveillance checks if any observations were made by Air Safety authorities, requisite corrective actions are taken by Air India.

Subsidy on service tax from Haj travellers

2579. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Aviation Company of India Ltd. (NACIL) las been issued notice in respect of Service Tax dues for Haj operations;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the NACIL is liable to pay the Service Tax on the subsidy component of the price of ticket for Haj travel?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) National Aviation Company of India Limited has received a notice to pay Service Tax in terms of service provided under the category of 'Transport of Passengers embarking in India for international Journey by Air Service' as defined under Section 65(105) under Customs Act. In the "Show cause Notice" a demand of an amount of Rs.95.89 crores has been raised for he period from 1.4.2006 to 31.3.2008.

(c) Yes, Sir.

Begumpet airport

2380. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY:
SHRI NANDAMURI HARIKRISHNA:
Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any request from the State Government of Andhra Pradesh has been received in his Ministry for converting Begumpet airport at Hyderabad into a National Aviation University;

(b) if so, the details of the request; and

(c) what action his Ministry has taken on the above request?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) In the year 2005, Government of Andhra Pradesh had expressed its willingness to set up an aviation university at the Begumpet airport after its closure.

(c) The Government of Andhra Pradesh was advised to initiate the process of setting up the

University in consultation with Ministry of Human Resource Developnwnt, with technical inputs regarding courses and curriculum provided by the Ministry of Civil Aviation as and when required.

Upgradation of non-metro airports

2581. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Airports Authority of India (AAI) plans to upgrade and modernize seven out of thirty-five non-metro airports in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the names of the airports;

(c) whether there is any proposal to modernize other non-metro airports by 2011-12; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (d) Airports Authority of India (AAI) has taken up upgradation/ modernisation work of 35 Non-Metro airports namely Agra, Agartala, Agatti, Ahmedabad, Amritsar, Aurangabad, Bhopal, Bhubaneswar, Chandigarh, Coimbatore, Dehradun, Dimapur, Goa, Guwahati, Indore, Imphal, Jammu, Jaipur, Khajuraho, Lucknow, Madurai, Mangalore, Nagpur, Patna, Port Blair, Pune, Rajkot, Raipur, Ranchi, Trivandrum, Tricy, Udaipur, Vishakhapatnam, Varanasi and Vododara.

In addition, AAI plans to upgrade/ modernise 13 other non-metro airports namely Akola, Belgaum, Calicut, Cooch Behar, Dibrugarh, Gondia, Hubli, Kullu, Mysore, Rajahmundry, Srinagar, Surat and Vijayawada.

These project will be funded through AAI's internal resources and borrowings and are expected to be completed by 2010.

Accidents at airports due to birds

†2582. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the investigation into the reasons of accidents happened at airports due to birds has been completed;

(b) the details of arrangements made at Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGI) and other places in terms of the investigation; and

(c) whether no accident has happened after making the arrangements?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) There have been no accidents at the airports due to bird hit. However, 304 bird hit cases were reported during the year 2008.

Upgradation of Umroi airport

2583. SHRI THOMAS SANGMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.